

Appendix**Assessment Record Sheet****GCSE English****re and****Centre name****Exam****Centre numl****Candi****Cand****Shakespeare task**Task title: *Merchant of Venice - character*

Shakespeare task

Contemporary Drama taskTask title: *Educating Rita - Theme*Contemporary
Drama task**TOTAL MARK for
unit:****/50**

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Date:

01/12/11

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Unit J: Shakespeare and contemporary drama

I am writing about the differences^{and} similarities of my interpretation of the character Shylock in the Merchant of Venice in the two different adaptations, the film and the play. There are many differences on how Shakespeare the writer of the play and Michael Radford, the director of the film, portray the character Shylock. When reading the play and watching the film I can see already one difference. Shylock is portrayed as a very old Jewish man but very rich in the play by Shakespeare as he is receiving five thousands ducats from Antonio but does not seem as bothered with the money as he is with cutting off Antonio's flesh. However, in the film, Radford portrays Shylock as a very greedy and selfish old man. He is very much excited about the fact of receiving five thousand ducats from Antonio rather than not being bothered at all. Also, there is a similarity that is shown from both of the adaptations that stands out. That is the fact that Shylock is very proud of his religion and being Jewish.

In the original play, which is a comedy, Shylock is presented as a very knowledgeable old man who knows a lot about what he's talking about in business as this is shown in the bond making. However, his knowledge is debatable because a lot of what he says is inaccurate in both adaptations. Shylock is also deeply religious and as I have said before, very proud of being a Jew. In the film, Shylock quotes, "I will walk with you, sell with you... and so the following, but I will not eat with you, drink with you..." This shows how religious Shylock really is and this prejudice becomes his main reason for wanting his bond.

Many characters have their views on Shylock, however, they do not express them as much as Lancelot does in Act 2 scene 2. Lancelot's view on Shylock is that he feels Shylock is turning him into a bit of a slave for him and also, turning him into a Jew by doing this. When Lancelot is speaking to Gobbo he ~~and~~ quotes, "To him, father, for I am a Jew if I serve the Jew any longer." In the play Shakespeare shows that Lancelot is very frightened of Shylock and does not want to serve him as a Jew because he feels it is

disgraceful that Shylock is doing this. Although emphasised in the text for comedic value, this is not seen as important in the film.

Shakespeare chose to present Shylock in the way he did to show how different he actually was. He shows Shylock's passion, anger and softness and this has an effect on the audience. They do not know what to expect from Shylock in each scene that he's in. The first time you see Shylock straight away and you can see he's a quite shy but big character who always wants to get his point across. This is shown in the play when Shylock quotes, "If every ducat in six thousand ducats were in six parts, and every part a ducat, I would not draw them; I would have my bond." He is really trying to get his point across here and it seems he is quite angry and shouting at Antonio. Whereas in the film he is quite calm when negotiating the bond with Antonio. However, he also seems more shy in the film than he is in the play and is also intimidated by Christians and has a crazy look in his eye. It is as though the man doesn't understand why people treat him like they do.

In the film Shylock was played by the actor Al Pacino. Michael Radford chose to make Shylock look like a grumpy old man but also vulnerable. The audience would see this straight away with his long grey beard, the bags underneath his eyes and by the way he walks and talks as well. This has an effect on the audience because you can tell straight away that Shylock is one of the main characters and probably is a villain in the play because he has no friends and is very lonely. He is portrayed this way in the play also as quite lonely and no one to turn to. However, he is a little more confident than he is in the film and this is shown in the play with the long speeches and quotes that are made by him throughout the play.

In both the adaptations when the bond is being made Shylock quotes, "well, well, well." This repetition has an effect on both audiences as they can see Shylock is getting excited at the thought of being given three thousand ducats from a Christian. However, Shylock tries to hide his

excitement by changing the subject a lot and talking as though he does these kind of bonds all the time with other people. Aside to this, Shylock also quotes in ~~the~~ text, "I hate him for he is a Christian." This is directed towards Antonio. This quote ~~shows~~ ^{shows} the religious prejudice that justifies his behaviour as a villain for Elizabethan audience. However, this quote is not in Radford's play which emphasises the change in times and lack of ~~an~~ antisemitic motive in Shylock. in the updated version.

* the play

getting stronger in analysis

There are some more differences in the court scene also. In Radford's film Shylock seems to be very nervous but also clear minded and willing to speak his mind. He wants justice and fairness from the court and the bond to be resolved. In Shakespeare's play, Shylock is repeating, 'bond', all of the time and seems quite angry as all of the people in the court are shouting at him and no one is supporting him. ~~Shakespeare~~ Shakespeare has made Shylock look quite ridiculous in this scene and an 'idiot' to his audience. Furthermore his exchanges with Gratiano are short and show confidence in his attempt on Antonio's life, he is almost aggressive in what he says. Whereas, Radford portrays him as calm and collected as if he is only there to prove a point.

evidence

Theme

Explore the ways by which a main theme is presented to the audience in the drama. Use examples from the drama text in your response.

In *Educating Rita* there are many key themes including, education, class and relationships. However, I am focusing on just one key theme which is Education. It is a very hard challenge for Frank who is Rita's tutor as her knowledge at the start of the play is not very good at all because she did not have a good education when she was young. Rita's education was mainly about dresses, boys, friends and she was getting distracted by all these things that she did not even think about her education. This was purely because she was in the wrong crowd and she feels she couldn't get away from it as she quotes, "See, if I'd started takin' school seriously I would have had to become different from me mates, an' that's not allowed." So that is one of the reasons why her knowledge is not very good, however by the end of the play her knowledge has changed dramatically for the good. She is almost as knowledgeable as Frank by the end and you can tell he knows his stuff by the way he speaks. It's almost as if he doesn't know how knowledgeable he is. However, at times he can hardly get a word in because Rita doesn't stop talking and is very selective whereas Frank is kind back and only says short sharp comments to what Rita says. Rita also uses inappropriate comments such as, "look at those tits!" This also shows her lack of education at the start of the play.

There are many different parts of the play that are linked to education. One could be when Frank is searching for his whiskey at the start of the play and finds it hidden in his books. This shows what type of class he is in terms of education. This is because many well educated like their drink and have it often. However when he offers some to Rita she shows some knowledge of how bad alcohol is for you by saying, "Y'wanna be careful with that stuff it kills y' brain cells." Another example could be when she asks Frank what consonance means and he says, "What?"; and gives a short laugh as if he is quite surprised at how Rita doesn't know a simple form of

and south divide many people were left very poor in the north and it was very hard for people in those times. Many of them are also theatre ~~gowers~~ ~~gowers~~ ~~gowers~~ gowers. The effects of the education shows the audience that if you want to change yourself you can. Rita has made herself a different person through education even though the times were hard. Willy Russell also shows very well the different in class and knowledge of Frank and Rita which is huge so to be in Rita's position at the end of play has an effect on the audience. Also in my opinion Education is the main thing about this play as it is even in the title. I believe the effect of education on the intended audience is very good and has a few weaknesses.

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